

Nebraska Lied Main Street program and the Certified National Main Street program. Main Street Beatrice provides guidance and resources to downtown businesses, building owners, and others by utilizing the National Main Street Program approach. The organization has grown by leaps and bounds in the last two years. Together with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Nebraska State Historical Society, Main Street Beatrice has been a leader in advocating for and sharing the message of the importance of utilizing available resources for historic preservation through training, awareness events, and community outreach. Beatrice was recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 2016.

I am proud to recognize each of these award winners today, and I thank them for their many contributions to Nebraska.

HONORING THE GREGORY J. HARRIS MILITARY COURTESY ROOM AT THE SYRACUSE HANCOCK AIRPORT

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room (MCR) at Syracuse Hancock International Airport.

Founded in 2008 by two TSA agents who grew tired of seeing soldiers sleeping on the floor of Syracuse's Hancock Airport, the MCR was developed to provide a place of refuge for soldiers awaiting flights. Since its inception, the MCR has aimed to provide traveling soldiers with a bit of home comfort. Fitted with amenities including a kitchen and lounge chairs for relaxation, the MCR has serviced hundreds of soldiers and has hosted everything from nervous recruits anticipating basic training to marriage proposals.

As our servicemen and women, including the many brave men and women serving our nation at Fort Drum and at the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field, travel through Syracuse I believe that they deserve nothing but our utmost respect and gratitude. For this reason, I applaud the MCR organizers and volunteers as they work tirelessly to ensure that the MCR is a home away from home for soldiers in transit.

While serving in Congress, I will continue to do everything in my power to show my appreciation for the men and women serving our country by working to ensure that they receive the treatment and benefits they deserve.

Today, I am proud to honor the Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room for celebrating its 10th anniversary and hope that we will continue to support those who have made significant sacrifices while serving this country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Mon-

day, July 16, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call vote 329 and "yea" on Roll Call vote 330.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 366, and YEA on Roll Call No. 367.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN "JACK" FRANCIS LYNCH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this spring the Fifth District of Maryland lost an extraordinary advocate for the men and women of our Armed Services and for America's naval engineering at the Pax River Naval Air Station. John 'Jack' Francis Lynch of St. Ingoes, Maryland, which is in St. Mary's County, passed away on May 18 at the age of eighty-five. Jack spent his career at Pax River, first as an engineer, then as Technical Director, and later as part of the private sector and as an early leader of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance and the Patuxent Partnership.

When he arrived in Southern Maryland in 1955, Jack began a career that would see him become one of the most influential individuals in the history of Pax River and the region. When he became Technical Director at Pax River in 1979, he realized that the installation was at a disadvantage compared to other major military installations around the country. That was something Jack would not abide. Pax River needed more engineers, so he went to Washington and asked that they be hired. He got what he asked for. Pax River had no on-site offices in Washington, so Jack made the trip to the Pentagon over and over again to lobby military leaders on its behalf. By the time he retired from government service in 1986, Jack had completely transformed the way engineers at Pax River trained and worked.

After leaving government service, Jack joined Mantech International until 1999 and continued to devote himself to Pax River and those who serve there throughout that time and after. In the early 1990's, Jack and I worked closely together and with other state and local leaders to secure funding to build an anechoic chamber at Pax River for the precision simulation of aircraft dynamics, the first of its kind in the world. We also worked together to ensure that Pax River benefitted from consolidation during the 1996 BRAC round, which helped make Southern Maryland the hub for aerospace development and testing it is today and a center for American engineering. Much of these achievements were the result of Jack's efforts to bring stakeholders together into the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance. Later, he led the Patuxent Partnership, which was also instrumental in growing Pax River and its critical role in naval aviation.

I will miss Jack Lynch, not only for his devotion to Southern Maryland and to a strong Navy but also for his optimism and determined spirit. I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in thanking Jack for his service to our country and in expressing my condolences to his wife Patricia Ann "Trixie;" their son Thomas and daughter-in-law Susan; their son Paul and daughter-in-law Kimberly; their son Patrick and daughter-in-law Kathy; and their ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. May Jack's memory bring them joy and comfort, as it surely will inspire all of us in Southern Maryland to carry on the work he cherished.

IN CELEBRATION OF MRS. ROBENA GAINES-FLAKES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to a phenomenal woman of God, dedicated educator, and beloved role model, Mrs. Robena Gaines-Flakes, who will be celebrating her 83rd birthday on Saturday, August 18, 2018. On this day, there will be a celebration at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church located at 222 Fifth Street in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Robena Gaines-Flakes was born in Phenix City, Alabama in 1935. After graduating from South Girard High School, she went on to study Early Childhood Education at Morris Brown College and Columbus State University.

Mrs. Flakes is a loving mother to her children and was a supportive wife to her late husband, Rev. Dr. J. H. Flakes, Jr., and compassionate first lady to his congregations at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia and Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Phenix City, Alabama. Together they used their deep and abiding faith in the Lord to make a tremendous impact on their community. Their son, Rev. J. H. Flakes, III now pastors over Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church and previously pastored over Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Flakes is also the Founding Director of the Fourth Street Daycare Center (now the Robena Gaines Flakes Daycare which was established in 1993. During her tenure as Director, the center expanded its roster (from 56 children to over 150 children daily), facility, and programs and services (to include an after-school program for elementary school students). It was also the first daycare to receive the "Center of Distinction Award" from the state of Georgia. She served in this capacity for 12 years until she retired as Director in 2005 and went on to serve as a Consultant.

Mrs. Flakes has received several accolades and awards for her work with the youth. These awards include the Rosa Parks Women of Courage Award from the Gamma Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Gracious Ladies of Georgia Award.

Mrs. Flakes has accomplished many things in her life but none of these would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of her late husband, their children, Reverend J. H. Flakes, III, Merle J.